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Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"The answer states that Government are considering the question of amending the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act so as to reconstitute the committees. Since the committees are not functioning for over two years, may I request the hon. the Chief Minister to expedite the proposed amendment of the Act?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The question is yet pending and, as soon as time permits, we will undertake legislation."

Reconstitution of Temple Committees.

* 621 *Q.*—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in several districts the Hindu Temple Committee have not yet been reconstituted;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to state why they have not been so reconstituted; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, so as to enable the Hindu Religious Endowments Board to reconstitute the temple committees in a satisfactory manner?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Owing to lack of funds it has not been possible to hold elections.

(*c*) The question of amending the Hindu Religious Endowments Act to enable Government to reconstitute the Committees by nomination wherever necessary is under consideration.

Districts enjoying the privilege of elected temple committees.

* 622 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) in which of the districts elected temple committees are functioning;

(*b*) why election for temple committees has not been introduced in the Salem district;

(*c*) who the members are of the temple committee in the Salem district now;

(*d*) whether this temple committee has got executive powers or whether it is only advisory;

(*e*) when elected temple committees are to come into operation in Salem district; and

(*f*) how many temple committees are to be there then and what the area represented by each is?

A.—(*a*) Committees are functioning in the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore and Tinnevelly. In Madura the Committee constituted for the Sri Minakshi Sundareswar, etc., Devasthanams alone is functioning.

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(*b*) The elections could not be held owing to lack of funds.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Committees in the district are not functioning at present.

(*e*) & (*f*) It is not possible to state now when the Committees will be reconstituted and what their respective territorial jurisdiction will be.

Temple Committees in the Coimbatore district.

* 623 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether temple committees have been constituted in the Coimbatore district;

(*b*) if so, how many committees there are and how and when they have been constituted;

(*c*) whether it is by election or by nomination;

(*d*) if it is not by election, why such system was not introduced yet in that district;

(*e*) whether the committees are simply advisory or whether they have got executive powers; and

(*f*) if no committees are functioning now, what it is due to?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) Two committees were constituted for the district by nomination in 1928. Their term expired in 1931.

(*d*) & (*f*) Of the two committees in the district, the Coimbatore Circle Committee has not sufficient funds to meet the cost of election. A proposal to constitute a single committee for the whole district is under consideration.

(*e*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the provisions of the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act, especially those in Chapters III and V.

Delay in the conduct of elections to the temple committees in the Trichinopoly district.

* 624 *Q.*—Mr. K. SINGAM AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that election arrangements are delayed in the constitution of the temple committees in the Trichinopoly district where the necessary amount has been already placed at the disposal of the Board from the committee funds for the conduct of the elections; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to call for a report from the Hindu Religious Endowments Board regarding this?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A report has been called for from the Hindu Religious Endowments Board on the subject.